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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

East Germany/Poland

SUBJECT

Transport of Coal from Upper Silesia to
East Germany, 1954

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INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Resumption of transportation of coal from Upper Silesia, Poland, to East Germany by East German-operated barges is now being delayed until spring 1954 because of the continuous low water level of the Oder in Poland. Should rains now suddenly come to permit navigation on the Oder in Poland again, barges still would not be dispatched before spring to avoid being caught in a sudden freeze.
2. As of December 1953, 150 barges of the Deutsche Oderschiffahrtsgesellschaft (DOS) had been cleared for and consigned to the transport of coal from Upper Silesia to East Germany in 1954. Additional barges were being sought for similar assignment.
3. It is planned for DOS barges to go only as far as Wroclaw (Breslau); there they are to be loaded from Polish barges plying between Kozle (Cosel), Gliwice (Gleiwitz) and Wroclaw. This method of transloading is employed principally because East Germany is unable to furnish the additional number of tugs that would be required if East German barges were to be shuttled through the 26 locks on the Oder between Wroclaw and Kozle. With the Polish barges negotiating the locks above Wroclaw, the DOS can use its limited supply of tugs for towing up to 12 empty DOS barges at a time up the Oder to Wroclaw, with loaded barges proceeding with the current downstream to Fuerstenberg, from which point they are again tugged to the respective East German industrial centers. During periods of low water in the Oder, loaded barges are held up at Wroclaw until a large number have been assembled; then the water gates above Wroclaw are suddenly released and the barges are literally flushed down stream to Fuerstenberg.
4. East Germany has consigned three steam shovels to the transloading operation; two of two-ton capacity are now undergoing repair in Fuerstenberg, and the other is still being used in the Osthafen in East Berlin.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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